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The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
Committee on Public Works
and Transportation
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

DDA REGISTRY

FILE: 15-8

Dear Mr. Wolf:

As I mentioned to you at our last meeting, I intend to send you periodic updates on the actions we are taking to address issues raised by the community with respect to our expansion. This note is the first such update.

We have asked the McLean Citizens Association (MCA), Park Service, Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation (VDH&T), and the National Capital Planning Commission to join us in a Traffic Advisory Committee that will assist us in guiding the design efforts of the traffic engineering effort. VDH&T has named Don Keith, Administrator for the Northern Virginia Region, to be their representative. Several conversations have been held with Mr. Gray, President of MCA, regarding selection of McLean spokespersons and we hope to have their representatives names shortly.

A draft charter for the Traffic Advisory Committee has been prepared for consideration by the members. This will be placed on the agenda for review at the Committee's first meeting. We have also requested that VDH&T provide copies of the planning assumptions being used in their traffic analyses. These will also be distributed for information and comment. The first Committee meeting is projected to occur in the latter half of August, at which time VDH&T should be prepared to discuss preliminary findings of their traffic analyses.

VDH&T has completed evaluation of 23 prospective design firms for the design project. An announcement of a selection is anticipated by mid-August and a contract award in September. While the expansion of the consultant contract to cover additional studies of the Parkway will increase contract costs, it appears that sufficient Agency funding will still be available to cover the work.

Internally, I have established a committee of logistics experts to study alternative systems of traffic control, including the concept of color-coded entry passes. Our plan is to identify alternative control concepts with which we can experiment during the construction phases when extraordinary controls will be required. This experience will guide us in deciding which techniques are feasible and give us comparative information on the administrative difficulties associated with a rigorous traffic control system.

In conjunction with the traffic analysis, we will explore the feasibility of moving the major portion of the visitor center to our Parkway entrance. This effort requires our security specialists to design a procedural system that incorporates both a Parkway and a Route 123 visitor reception function. Once the procedural issues are resolved, we can then have our design firm redesign the visitor centers and develop revised cost information regarding construction and operating costs. Needless to say, this will take us several months but the information will be necessary to reach a firm conclusion on the feasibility of the proposed change.

I hope this information will be useful to you in responding to constituent queries regarding our planning. As we have stated before, it is our continuing desire to resolve as many of these planning issues as possible and we will continue to work to that end throughout the project.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Harry E. Fitzwater
Deputy Director
for
Administration

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Rewritten:DDA:HEFitzwater:kmg (29 Jul 83)

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